

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 5513

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, RP
SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS: MARCOS THREATENS CRACKDOWN ON
OPPOSITION

REF: MANILA 5509

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT MARCOS AFTERNOON APRIL 8 THREATENED
ARRESTS OF OPPOSITION LEADERS TO PREVENT REPETITION OF APRIL
6 LABAN DEMONSTRATIONS. ARMED FORCES CHIEF RERPOTED
OPPOSITION PLANS FOR A PROTEST RALLY TONIGHT. CONSTABULARY
ANNOUNCED APRIL 7 RAID ON HOME OF LABAN CANDIDATE CHARITO
PLANAS YIELDED WEAPON, AMMUNITION AND SUBVERSIVSLDOCUMENTS.
NEW YORK TIMES REPORTER EXPECTS TO BE EXPELLED FOR STORY
ON ELECTION FRAUD. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT MARCOS, IN A TELEVISED CONVERSATION WITH
MALACANANG PRESS CORPS AFTERNOON APRIL 8, PROMISED A CRACK-
DOWN IN THE WAKE OF THE APRIL 6 LABAN "NOISE BARRAGE".
HE SAID LABAN IS NOW "APPARENTLY CONTROLLED BY SUBVERSIVES,"
AND THE GOVERNMENT "WILL GO AFTER THEM." HE URGED
LABAN SYMPATHIZERS WHO ARE NOT SUBVERSIVES TO "AYTRICATE
THEMSELVES" FROM THE PARTY WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME. CLAIMING
THAT ON WOMAN DIED DURING THE DEMONSTRATION, HE SAID THE AUTHOR-
ITIES "WILL HAVE TO TAKE MEASURES TO PREVENT ANY REPETITION
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OF THE RIOTING," AND THAT HE HAS ORDERED TO POLICE AND MILITARY
TO DO SO, INCLUDING TAKING "ANTICIPATORY ACTION.

3. LATER THE SAME AFTERNOON, ARMED FORCES CHIEF GEN.
RAMOS ANNOUNCED THAT A MASSIVE OPPOSITION DEMONSTRATION
IS PALNNED FOR TONIGHT, APRIL 8. HE URGED METRO MANILA
POPULATION TO STAY INDOORS AND AVOID POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT

IN THE DEMONSTRATION. GOVERNMENT TELEVISION STATION ANCHORMAN DURING ELECTION COVERAGE IS STRESSING THREAT TO PEACE AND ORDER BY APRIL 6 "BARRAGE" AND BY POSSILBE NEW DEMONSTRATIONS AND IS URGING VIEWERS TO "TAKE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES" TO AVOID "ANY RIOTS THAT MAY HAPPEN."

4. PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS ANNOUNCED IN BULLETIN TO GOVERNMENT TV ELECTION WATCH THAT LABAN CANDIDATE CHARITO PLANAS' HOUSE HAD BEEN RAIDED LATE APRIL 7 (REFTEL). PC INFORMATION OFFICER SAID THE SEARCH HAD YIELDED ONE ILLEGAL WEAPON, AMMUNITION AND SUBVERSIVE DOCUMENTS. HE SAID SECDEF ENRILE ISSUED ARREST,(SEARCH

AND SEIZURE ORDER (ASSO) ON BASIS OF REPORTS HER HOUSSE WAS USED AS SAFEHOUSE BY COMMUNIST URBAN GUERRILLAS. ANNOUNCEMENT POINTED OUT THAT PLANAS IS A FORMER DETAINEE TECHNICALLY ON TEMPORARY RELEASE. LABAN CAMPAIGN MANAGER TANADA AND COLLEAGUE JUAN DAVID, ALONG WITH TWO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS (INCULDING ONE "MR. ROGERS"), CAME TO PLANAS' HOUSE DURING THE RAID, STAYED A FEW MINUTES, AND LEFT, ACCORDING TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT.

5. NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT FOX BUTTERFIELD TOLD EMBOFF AFTERNOON APIRL 8 HE HAS HEARD HE WILL BE FORCED CONFIDENTIAL

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TO LEAVE PHILIPPINES SHORTLY. BUTTERFIELD SAID HE BELIEVES HIS EXPULSION IS BASED ON STORY HE WROTE RECOUNTING INCIDENT AT MAKATI VOTING PRECINCT YESTERDAY. BUTTERFIELD REPORTEDLY HEARD THAT TALLY SHEETS WERE BEING FRAUDULENTLY FILLED OUT IN AN UPSTAIRS ROOM IN THE BUILDING. HE FOUND THE ROOM AND ENTERED IT, AND PLAIN COLOTHES GUARDS PUSHED HIM OUT AND THREW HIM DOWN THE STAIRS. WE UNDERSTAND THE STORY WAS REPORTED TO THE TIMES.

6. AS OF 1800 APRIL 8 COMELEC STILL HAS ANNOUNCED NO DEFINITIVE OFFICIAL RESULTS OR TRENDS. UNOFFICIAL RESULTS STILL SHOW ALL 21 KBL CANDIDATES LEADING IN METRO MANILA AND FULL PUSYON BISAYA SLATE LEADING IN REGION VII (CEBU).

7. COMMENT: GOP PUBLIC POSTURE IS ONE OF HEIGHTENED CONCERN ABOUT SUBVERSION AND PEACE AND ORDER IN WAKE OF ELECTIONS. THIS MAY INDICATE GENUINE WORRY ABOUT BABAN REACTION TO PRESUMED ELECTION FRAUD. IT MAY ALSO REPRESENT GOP EFFORTS TO OBSCURE ELECTORAL ABNORMAGMTIES. STULL

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Message Attributes

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